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ADVERTISER

# UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

WRITER

EPISODE NO. 436

PROGRAM TITLE

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET

WMAQ BLUE

MAY 16, 1941

FRI DAY

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TIME

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DAY

## PRODUCTION

## ANNOUNCER

## ENGINEER

REMARKS





1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers
- 2 MUSIC: THEME
3. ANNOUNCER: Campers, smokers, brush-burners -- everyone everywhere who
4. goes into, near or through America's forests, rangelands, or
5. brushlands for any reason whatever this year -- remember: Be extremely
6. careful with fire. With light snowfall over many western forests during the
7. past winter and unseasonably warm, dry weather in many parts of the country
8. this spring, Forest Service experts predict that this may be one of the most
9. hazardous fire seasons in years. Products of our forests and ranges are more
10. needed this year than ever before. Nobody can afford to take chances. So
11. again -- remember: Use the ash-tray in your car. Break your match before
12. you throw it away. Clear away all sticks and leaves for several feet around
13. before you build a campfire. Keep campfires small and never leave until the
14. last spark is dead. And you'd better check with the nearest fire guard or
15. forest ranger about State laws concerning debris and brush clearing fires or
16. you may be in for a lot of trouble. This year -- as every year -- forest
17. defense is national defense. Remember.
18. And now to the Pine Cone National Forest. The Stars and Stripes
19. are floating from the flag pole in front of the ranger station in Winding
20. Creek today -- proudly as ever -- whipped by a warm breeze and especially
21. colorful in the bright spring sun. Jerry Quick, the assistant ranger, is
22. just returning from the postoffice with the morning mail. Beas is busy with
23. her housework and here's Ranger Jim Robbins in the ranger station office talking
24. to Forest Supervisor Bert Ellsworth on the telephone. Here he is:
- 25.



Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

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THERE

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3. ANNOUNCER:

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22. her housework and here's Ranger Jim Robbins in the ranger station office talking

23. to Forest Supervisor Bert Ellsworth on the telephone. Here he is:

24.



1. JIM: (IN TELEPHONE) Well, I'm mighty worried, Bert.....Uh huh.  
2. I haven't seen it so dry so early in the spring around here  
3. in years.....Uh huh. Jerry and I have been doin' all that we  
4. can. We've contacted about everybody around here warnin' 'em to  
5. be careful and tellin' 'em not to burn any brush 'till we get  
6. a good break in the weather, but you know how peopl are...Huh?  
7. ....Yeah, I sure do, Bert. I think we ought to put on two or  
8. three emergency guards anyway. People don't take warning  
9. until something actually happens. Then it's too late.  
10. SOUND OF DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING NEARBY  
11. JIM: Uh huh. That's be the way I'd do it....All right then, I'll  
12. go ahead and get ahold of Bill Willard and Joe Hawkins today..  
13. ...Yep. Okay Bert. So long.  
14. SOUND: OF RECEIVER ON HOOK.  
15. JERRY: Bert agree to puttin' some emergency guards on, Jim?  
16. JIM: Yeah Jerry, he did.  
17. JERRY: Well boy, we're not the only ones that're dry. You oughta see  
18. these papers -- fulla stories about fires back East. Virginia,  
19. Maryland, New Jersey and New England really been havin' a time.  
20. Take a look here.  
21. JIM: H-m-m. Two hundred homes burned.  
22. BESS: (COMING ON) Oh, are you back already, Jerry? Was there any  
23. mail?  
24. JERRY: Nope -- nothin' but a few circulars, Mrs. Robbins. But the  
25. morning paper's sure full of stories about forest fires back east



(IN TELEPHONE) Well, I'm mighty worried, Bert... Uh huh.

I haven't seen it so dry so early in the spring around here in years... Uh huh. Jerry and I have been doing all that we can. We've contacted about everybody around here warning 'em be careful and telling 'em not to burn any brush till we get a good break in the weather, but you know how people are... Huh?

...Yeah, I sure do, Bert. I think we ought to put on two or three emergency guards anyway. People don't take warning until something actually happens. Then it's too late.

OF DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING NEARBY

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...Yep. Okay Bert. So long.

OF RECEIVER ON HOOK.

Bert agree to puttin' some emergency guards on, Jim?

Yeah Jerry, he did.

Well boy, we're not the only ones that're dry. You oughta see these papers -- fulla stories about fires back East, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and New England really been havin' a time. Take a look here.

H-m-m. Two hundred homes burned.

(COMING ON) Oh, are you back already, Jerry? Was there any mail?

Nope -- nothin', but a few circulars, Mrs. Hobbins. But the morning paper's sure full of stories about forest fires back

1. JIM:

2.

3. JERRY:

4.

5.

6.

7. JIM:

8.

9. JERRY:

10. SOUND

11. JIM:

12.

13.

14. SOUND:

15. JERRY:

16. JIM:

17. JERRY:

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19.

20.

21. JIM:

22. JERRY:

23. JIM:

24. JERRY:

25.



1. BESS: Oh dear. It just seems like people won't learn. I've been so  
2. afraid these days something awful would happen around here.  
3. JERRY: (LAUGHS) Maybe you think Jim and I haven't been afraid of the  
4. same thing. This country's like a powder keg right now. I'm  
5. SOUND: sure glad Bert's gonna let us put on at least a coupla extra  
6. JERRY: fire guards, looks like you've got a new truck this spring.  
7. JIM: This is bad. Says here there's been over a million dollars  
8. damage done. That's a right party wagon, huh?  
9. JERRY: Yeah. And you know, Jim, all those eastern fires are man-caused.  
10. JIM: They don't have dry lightning to blame them on back there.  
11. BESS: Let's see, Jim. My goodness, look at that picture of those  
12. SOUND: poor old people standing there among all those burned buildings  
13. TOM: with just a wheelbarrow full of belongings left. She's crying.  
14. JIM: Yeah, and here's one of a couple that lost their whole chicken  
15. JIM: farm -- 4000 chickens burned and smoke killed. There's plenty  
16. of tragedy in that too. You know what I mean, will you Tom?  
17. JERRY: Couple of those fires came mighty close to burnin' up some of  
18. JIM: those new Army camps just built up too. Funny thing -- we  
19. SOUND: talk and talk and write and write about bein' careful with  
20. JIM: fire -- and what good does it do? Can't smoke do you, Tom?  
21. SOUND: OF CAR, OFF MIKE: Great. You see that I don't smoke none.  
22. BESS: Somebody coming to see you, Jim. At all the rest of 'em  
23. JIM: Yeah. Guess that must be Tom Miller comin' after his permit to  
24. TOM: out poles for that new drift fence he's puttin' up. Is early in  
25. SOUND: OF TRUCK STOPPING OUTSIDE AND CAR DOOR SLAMMING



On dear. It just seems like people won't listen. I've been so  
 afraid these days something awful would happen around here.  
 (LAUGHS) Maybe you think Jim and I haven't been afraid of the  
 same thing. This country's like a powder keg right now. I'm  
 sure Glad Bert's gonna let us put on at least a couple extra  
 fire guards.  
 This is bad. Says here there's been over a million dollars  
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 Yeah. And you know, Jim, all those eastern fires are man-caused.  
 They don't have dry lightning to blame them on back there.  
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 poor old people standing there among all those burned buildings  
 with just a wheelbarrow full of belongings left. She's crying.  
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 of tragedy in that too.  
 Couple of those fires came mighty close to burnin' up some of  
 those new Army camps just built up too. Funny thing -- we  
 talk and talk and write and write about bein' careful with  
 fire -- and what good does it do? Don't seem to make no  
 OF CAR, OFF MIKE:   
 Somebody coming to see you, Jim.  
 Yeah. Guess that must be Tom Miller-comin' after his permit to  
 cut poles for that new drift fence he's puttin' up.  
 OF TRUCK STOPPING OUTSIDE AND CAR DOOR SLAMMING

1. BESS:  
 2. JERRY:  
 3. JIM:  
 4. JIM:  
 5. JERRY:  
 6. JIM:  
 7. BESS:  
 8. JIM:  
 9. JIM:  
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 24. JIM:  
 25. JIM:



1. BESS: Let me have the paper, Jim, and I'll get back out in the  
2. other part of the house so you men can talk business in here.  
3. JIM: Okay Bess. We won't have time to look at the paper 'till  
4. tonight anyway.  
5. SOUND: OF FOOTSTEPS ON PORCH  
6. JERRY: Howdy Tom. Looks like you've got a new truck this spring.  
7. TOM: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Howdy Jerry. Hi Jim. Yeah, that is a new  
8. truck, Jerry. She's a right purty wagon, heY?  
9. JERRY: I'll say.  
10. JIM: Come on int, Tom. I'll have that permit made out for you  
11. pronto.  
12. SOUND: OF SCREEN DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING  
13. TOM: (UP) Okay Jim. Thanks. Sure fine that we can leave the  
14. doors and windows open again ain't it?  
15. JIM: Uh huh. Glad to have it turn warm all right. But things are  
16. certainly dry....Now, you sign right here, will you Tom?  
17. TOM: Here?  
18. JIM: Hu huh. That's right.  
19. SOUND: OF PAPER BEING TORN  
20. JIM: There -- you're all fixed up. You don't smoke do you, Tom?  
21. TOM: Nope Jim. I'm a great one to chew but I don't smoke none.  
22. JIM: H-m-m- I'd sure feel a lot better if all the rest of 'em  
23. workin' in your crew were the same way. right now - -  
24. TOM: Why Jim? You ain't worried about fires startin' this early in  
25. the year, are yuh?

... into the paper, Jim, and I'll get back out in a  
 short while. We won't have time to look at the paper  
 tonight anyway.

OF COURSE ON PAPER

Hardy Tom, looks like you've got a new truck this morning  
 (SINGING OUT) Hardy Jerry, Hi Jim, Hi, what is a  
 truck, Jerry, she's a right pretty wagon, hey?  
 I'll say.

Come on now, Tom, I'll have that paint made out for you

OF COURSE DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING

(UP) Okay Jim, Thanks. Sure time that we can leave in

doors and windows open again ain't it?

Oh sure, glad to have it open when all right. But what's the

Here?

Oh sure, that's right.

OF PAPER BEING TORN

There -- you're all fixed up. You don't smoke do you, Tom?

Not a bit, I'm a great one to chew but I don't smoke now.

Well -- I'd sure feel a lot better at all the rest of the

workin' in your crew were the same way. Right now --

THEY ALL GO OUT

THEY ALL GO OUT



1. JERRY: Plenty of fire in the East already, Tom.

2. TOM: Yeah Jerry, but these here Mountains are a long ways west of the

3. East. Never knew of any real serious fires out here 'till

4. along in late June at the very earliest.

5. JIM I know Tom, but this is an unusual year. You fellas workin'

6. out there on that range don't want to be fooled by all the

7. green sprouts showin' up. There's a heavy stand of dead grass

8. underneath that'd burn like blazes. Bad wind comin' up today

9. too.

10. JERRY: And don't forget we're short handed here for fire-fighters right

11. now, Tom. Haven't got any lookouts out yet you know. Once a

12. fire got goin' on that piece of range it's keep right on into

13. the timber and it's hard tellin' how far she'd go.

14. TOM: (LAUGHS) Well, now I got this permit to cut them poles I

15. gotta get under way. But you fellas don't need to worry none

16. about fires gettin' started up our way. (FADE) We're old

17. hands at this fire game.

18. MUSIC: UP AND OUT

19. SOUND OF TOOLS -- SHOVELS, AXES ETC -- BEING RATTLED AROUND

20. JERRY: (SLIGHTLY OFF MIKE) Here's another good shovel, Jim. That

21. makes the outfit complete, doesn't it?

22. JIM: Uh huh. That makes three. Now let's pull out that hose for

23. the pump, Jerry, and check it over.

24. SOUND OF SCRAPING AND JERRY GRUNTING

25. JERRY: (SOMEWHAT MUFFLED AND OFF MIKE) Get out of the way. Here it

comes.

NO. 1, 1950

...in fact none at the very earliest.

the pump, Jerry, and check it over.



1. SOUND OF DULL THUD AS LARGE ROLL OF HOSE IS DROPPED  
 2. SOUND: OF SCRAPING FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER THUD  
 3. JERRY: That's only two rolls. Where's the rest of it?  
 4. JIM: I think it's down in the garage, Jerry. Come on down and we'll  
 5. get this unrolled.  
 6. SOUND OF JERRY DESCENDING STEPS  
 7. JERRY: (ON MIKE) Um boy, it's hot enough up there in that tool shed  
 8. attle to be the middle of July.  
 9. JIM: (CHUCKLES) You look like you've had quite a work out.  
 10. JERRY: You know I sure wish we could count on everybody like we can  
 11. Tom Miller, Jim. When he tells you you don't need to worry about  
 12. fire on his place you can almost depend on it there won't be  
 13. any fire.  
 14. JIM: Uh huh, almost. Only trouble is fellas like Tom are a little  
 15. too sure. He wasn't much concerned Jerry.  
 16. JERRY: Well there's somethin' in that all right. A fella that's too  
 17. sure is probably just as bad or worse than the guy who....  
 18. BESS: (SHOUTING, VERY EXCITED, OFF MIKE) Jim! Jerry! Bald Mountain  
 19. reporting a fire!  
 20. JIM: Goodnight. Get the truck out and load up two of those twenty-  
 21. man outfits we just checked. Throw in the pump and all the  
 22. hose we've got, too. (FADE) I'll find out where it is.  
 23. JERRY: (FADES) Okay Jim.  
 24. (PAUSE)  
 25. FADE IN SOUND OF TRUCK IDLING

THAT AS I HAVE BEEN IN THE

THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE

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1. SOUND OF RUNNING FEET AND TRUCK DOOR BEING SLAMMED

2. JIM: Okay Jerry. Miller's ranch.

3. SOUND OF TRUCK GETTING INTO MOTION AND, SIREN COMING ON, BACK

4. JERRY: Grass fire?

5. JIM: Yeah, bad. Dave parsons and fifty CCC boys from the camp will

6. meet us there.

7. SOUND OF TRUCK AND SIREN UP AND FADE

8. FADE IN MUSIC UP AND OUT

9. SOUND: OF TELEPHONE RINGING

10. BESS: (SYMPATHETICALLY) I'll answer it, Jim.

11. JIM: It's probably Bert Ellsworth, Bess. I called him a few minutes

12. ago to give him my report and he was out. So I asked them to

13. call back.

14. SOUND: OF TELEPHONE RINGING FOLLOWED BY RECEIVER OFF HOOK

15. JIM: Jim Rob -- No, Jerry's in bed, Mary ... uh huh...No, he's all

16. right -- just worn out...Well, Mary, I'd rather not talk about

17. it now. I've just been waiting for a call from the Supervisor.

18. You call back later and talk to Bess...Uh huh. All right, Mary.

19. SOUND: OF RECEIVER ON HOOK

20. BESS: Jim, why don't you let me take care of the phone and go on to

21. bed. I can read off your report to Bert Ellsworth when he calls

22. You still haven't had a bath and you haven't been to bed in more

23. than 24 hours.

24. SOUND: OF TELEPHONE

25. JIM: That's probably Bert.

THEY WERE IN A CAR AND WERE GOING TO THE

THEY WERE IN A CAR AND WERE GOING TO THE

ON TRUCK BEING IN MOTION AND, GIVEN GOING ON, EARLY

ON TRUCK BEING IN MOTION AND, GIVEN GOING ON, EARLY

There, dad, there persons and fifty 600 feet from the car.

There, dad, there persons and fifty 600 feet from the car.

ROUND OF TRUCK AND STAY IN THE

FACE IN MUSIC UP AND ON

OF TELEPHONE RINGING

IT IS PROBABLY NOT ELIZABETH, BESS. I CALLED HIM A FEW

ago to give him my report and he was out. So I asked him to

call back.

ON TELEPHONE RINGING FOLLOWED BY RECEIVER OFF HOOK

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1. SOUND:

OF RECEIVER OFF HOOK

2. JIM:

Hello. Jim Robbins speaking. (ASIDE) Long distance, so it'll  
3. be Bert, Bess. (IN TELEPHONE) Hello. Bert?....Yeah. A got  
4. the facts right here.....Okay. Here they are: Tom Miller, his  
5. son Billie. Hank Ray and Rex Willard were building a drift fence  
6. across the middle of section 14 from east to west. Yesterday,  
7. Friday, at about 3:30 in the afternoon after they had all passed  
8. the spot where the fire started -- in a narrow gulch at the  
9. base of a steep mountain - the fire was first seen by Miller.  
10. There was a strong wind blowing and the flames spread so fast  
11. they couldn't do anything to stop it. I talked with Miller,  
12. Ray and Willard about the start of the fire. Miller doesn't  
13. smoke but Ray and Willard do. It looks as if the fire was  
14. started from a match or cigarette but neither of the smokers  
15. would admit they were smoking at the time. Miller had a new  
16. pickup truck on the the job and Willard was working a team and  
17. wagon. The truck was a complete loss. A colt running with the  
18. team was burned to death. In trying to unhitch the team from the  
19. wagon Willard was badly burned and one of the horses in the team  
20. was so badly burned it had to be shot. The wagon was completely  
21. destroyed. In attempting to escape, Tom Miller's son Billie  
22. was burned to death. We formed a searching party Friday night  
23. but the body wasn't found until daylight Saturday morning. Those  
24. are the main facts, Bert...Huh? Yes, the fire burned about 300  
25. acres -- about 250 acres of Miller's grass and 50 acres in  
National forest timber....(TIRED) Oh yes, Bert, I warned Miller  
Friday morning (FADE) before he ever went up there.



1. SOUND:  
2. JIM:  
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OF RECEIVER OFF HOOK

Hello. Jim Robbins speaking. (ASIDE) Long distance, so it'll be Bert, Bess. (IN THE PHONE) Hello. Bert?...Yeah. A lot the facts right here....Okay. Here they are: Tom Miller, his son Billie, Hank Ray and Rex Willard were building a drift fence across the middle of section 14 from east to west. Yesterday Friday, at about 3:30 in the afternoon after they had all passed the spot where the fire started -- in a narrow gulch at the base of a steep mountain -- the fire was first seen by Miller. There was a strong wind blowing and the flames spread so fast they couldn't do anything to stop it. I talked with Miller, Ray and Willard about the start of the fire. Miller doesn't smoke but Ray and Willard do. It looks as if the fire was started from a match or cigarette but neither of the smokers would admit they were smoking at the time. Miller had a new pickup truck on the job and Willard was working a team and wagon. The truck was a complete loss. A colt running with the team was burned to death. In trying to unhitch the team from the wagon Willard was badly burned and one of the horses in the team was so badly burned it had to be shot. The wagon was completely destroyed. In attempting to escape, Tom Miller's son Billie was burned to death. We formed a searching party Friday night but the body wasn't found until daylight Saturday morning. Those are the main facts, Bert...Huh? Yes, the fire burned about 300 acres -- about 250 acres of Miller's grass and 50 acres in National Forest timber....(TIRED) Oh yes, Bert, I warned Miller Friday morning (PAUSE) before he ever went up there.



1. MUSIC: FINALE
2. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday on the
3. National Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the National
4. Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the Forest
5. Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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5:13:41

- 21.
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- 25.

FINALE

1. MUSIC:

2. ANNOUNCER:

Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers come to you each Friday on the National Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

\* \* \*

30. Dec 5:13:41

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